



Muzhdah Waqar , Connie Cung, Jeremy Brownholtz (swamp 1)

Site Description (day 1)

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Here you can see pictures of our swamp on this cold March morning.

Today is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the first day we are out at our swamp 1 e-site , in the forest. Its very cold and dry, and there is not really much snow on the ground.



The land has lots of gravel before you come near the swamp itself, and there is a very sharp slope, enough that it is very easy to trip if you are not careful. Before you reach the actual swamp there is a large mass of dead leaves and lots of branches before you get to the actual water, and it is teeming with leaves and algae and logs and branches. There are small "islands" of soil made from organic matter. It may have started from dead trees decomposing. Then moss and algae may have grown on top. There are trees growing in these masses of organic matter and they are covered in a layer of fallen, dead leaves. On the edges of the swamp there is lots of mud. There are fallen logs and dead leaves everywhere, and the only source of water is the swamp

itself. The water is eroding at tiny bit with the soil, because as snow melts and fills the swamp more it erodes at the surrounding soil. Wind and footsteps erode at the ground. It is very cold and quite windy. Its not very sunny , probably because its still early in the morning and its not quite noon yet, even though the trees don't have leaves yet . The ground is covered in dead maple and oak leaves. The soil is moderately moist, like, if you were to put it in your hand and squeeze it you feel some moisture, and it seems moist enough to support trees, and it is dark brown. There is a musty soil smell about the swamp.

Birds can be heard chirping. Chickadees can be heard through the forest. Not many animals can be seen, but it may just be because of the fact that it is still cold , so some may come out when the weather is warmer. The only evidence available of animals is the sound of the birds in the forest for now, since it is a cold winter morning. Not many insects can be observed, possibly due to the cold weather.

In terms of vegetation, there are mostly deciduous trees , like maple and oak, but the leaves are fallen so it is difficult to tell. There are no grasses. There is algae in the water, lots of it, and moss on the rocks. There is a great abundance of trees. Not many decomposers, such as mushrooms, are visible right now. Humans have impacted the area by making trails and a bridge over the swamp, and we are impacting the soil by walking on it, which reduces soil porosity and makes it harder for plants to grow their roots. Our footsteps have also causes erosion to the ground surrounding the swamp.